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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-23, and 25-38 are pending, with claims 1, 14, 21, and 25 being independent. Claims 14-20 and 25-36 are allowed. Claims 37 and 38 are being added by this amendment. No new matter is being added.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Nguyen for indicating that claims 14-20 and 25-36 are allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Wu (5,991,756). Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 21 to obviate this rejection.

As amended, claims 1 and 21 recite a method (claim 1) and a computer program (claim 21) for performing a category search to identify categories of items that relate to a search term that includes, among other features, receiving at least one search term, where the search term includes at least one search term word. A search term is compared with a hierarchy of category identifiers to determine whether matches exist by comparing the search term word with one or more words in the hierarchy of category identifiers. At least one matching category identifier is identified based on the matches that are determined to exist between the search term word and the words of the hierarchy of category identifiers. The search term word is compared with terms related to one or more categories to determine whether matches exist, where the terms related to one or more categories include a name and a description of a web site corresponding to a category. At least one category identifier is displayed and <u>when more than one matching category identifier is identified and displayed, the matching category identifiers are presented with an indication of relative rank determined based on a number of the matches that are determined to exist and at least one of locations and types of the matches for each respective matching category identifier.</u>

Noteworthy, with respect to dependent claim 6, which recites that several category identifiers are displayed and the category identifiers are ranked based on a number of the matches that are determined to exist and at least one of locations and types of the matches, the Office Action relies upon col. 5, lines 46-62 and Fig. 5 of Wu. Applicants agree that Wu

describes performing a search through documents that are organized into a hierarchy. However, Wu fails to disclose when more than one matching category identifier is identified and displayed, the matching category identifiers are presented with an indication of relative rank determined based on a number of the matches that are determined to exist and at least one of locations and types of the matches for each respective matching category identifier, as recited in amended claims 1 and 21.

> For category nodes, record 38 includes a title 46, a description 47 of the category, and possibly a set of hidden key words 48. For site nodes, the record includes a title, a description of the cite (possibly blank), and a URL pointing to the site/page referenced. Together, document number 40, subtree pointer 42 and parent pointer 44 describe the linkage between records. For example, document #2 has "8" as its subtree pointer, indicating that all the documents numbered from 3 (the document number plus one) to 8 (the subtree pointer value) are in the subtree below document 2, and "1" as its parent pointer, indicating that document 1 is the parent document of document 2. The other fields of the record 38 for document #2 indicate that its contents is "Games", it has no keywords listed and it is a category (as opposed to a site reference). The specification of an entire subtree using just the last document number in the subtree is possible because of the particular assignment order of document numbers.

No text in the relied upon portion of Wu describes presenting the displayed matching category identifiers with an indication of relative rank based on a number of the matches that are determined to exist and at least one of locations and types of matches for each respective matching category identifier. Rather, the relied upon portion of Wu merely describes the information that is contained in a data table corresponding to nodes of the tree structure as illustrated in Fig. 3. This relied upon text has nothing to do with determining the order in which the displayed matching category identifiers are displayed.

Instead of basing the presenting of matching category identifiers with an indication of relative rank based on a number of the matches that are determined to exist and at least one of locations and types of the matches, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 21, Wu uses a weighting value to determine the order that documents are displayed. The weighting value is a value set automatically or by an editorial staff member to indicate how valuable and/or relevant a particular category or site is relative to other categories and sites. "A record's weighting comes

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into play when multiple documents are being displayed as a search result, as the display documents are display[ed] in order by their weighting values." See Wu, col. 6, lines 31-50. Thus, the weighting value of Wu, which determines the order the documents are displayed as a search result, has nothing to do with presenting matching category identifiers with an indication of relative rank based on a number of the matches that are determined to exist and at least one of locations and types of the matches.

Furthermore, Fig. 5 merely illustrates an example of a display of a search result that might result from a query string. The text corresponding to Fig. 5 simply states that matching category documents 54 are shown separate from matching site documents 58. Wu further states with respect to Fig. 5 that matching category documents and matching site documents are shown with a concatenation of titles of categories defining a path to the match, which provides the user with context. Fig. 5 and the text corresponding to Fig. 5 simply do not describe or suggest presenting the matching category identifiers with an indication of relative rank based on a number of the matches that are determined to exist and at least one of locations and types of the matches. See Wu, col. 8, lines 47-65.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of §102(a) rejection of amended independent claims 1 and 21, and their dependent claims 2 and 4-13.

Claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Snow et al. (6,055,540). Claims 22 and 23 depend from independent claim 21. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 21, Wu fails to describe or suggest the features of claim 21. Snow is not relied upon in the Office Action, nor can it properly be said to remedy the above-noted Wu shortcomings. Thus, the combination of Wu and Snow fails to describe or suggest that claim 21 features or the features of its dependent claims 22 and 23. Moreover, in view of the respective dependence upon claim 21, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of §103(a) rejection of claims 22 and 23.
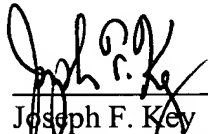
Enclosed is a $146.00 check of which $110.00 is for the Petition for Extension of Time

fee and $36.00 is for excess claim fees. During prosecution of this application, please apply any

other deficiencies or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/23/2004

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